

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A vertebral body contact element for securing an orthopedic device to a vertebral body endplate, the vertebral body contact element comprising a flexible element secured at least at a perimetrical region of the vertebral body contact element to the orthopedic device.

2. The vertebral body contact element of claim 1, wherein the vertebral body contact element is securable to the orthopedic device by being buried at its perimetrical region within a coating applied to the orthopedic device.

3. The vertebral body contact element of claim 1, wherein the vertebral body contact element is deformably reshapable under anatomical loads such that the vertebral body contact element is conformably deflectable against the vertebral body endplate to securably engage the vertebral body endplate.

4. The vertebral body contact element of claim 1, wherein the vertebral body contact element comprises a wire mesh having a resting shape of a dome convexly extendable from the orthopedic device.

5. The vertebral body contact element of claim 1, wherein the vertebral body contact element comprises a dome that has a convexity depth approximating a concavity depth of a concave surface of a vertebral body endplate.

6. The vertebral body contact element of claim 1, wherein the vertebral body contact element comprises a dome that has a footprint approximating a footprint of a concave surface of a vertebral body endplate.

7. A vertebral body contact element for securing an orthopedic device to a vertebral body endplate, the vertebral body contact element comprising a porous dome secured at least at a perimetrical region of the vertebral body contact element to the orthopedic device.

8. The vertebral body contact element of claim 7, wherein the vertebral body contact element is securable to the orthopedic device by being buried at its perimetrical region within a coating applied to the orthopedic device.

9. The vertebral body contact element of claim 7, wherein the vertebral body contact element is deformably reshapable under anatomical loads such that the vertebral body contact element is conformably deflectable against the vertebral body endplate to securably engage the vertebral body endplate.

10. The vertebral body contact element of claim 7, wherein the vertebral body contact element comprises a wire mesh.

11. The vertebral body contact element of claim 7, wherein the vertebral body contact element has a convexity depth approximating a concavity depth of a concave surface of a vertebral body endplate.

12. The vertebral body contact element of claim 7, wherein the vertebral body contact element has a footprint approximating a footprint of a concave surface of a vertebral body endplate.

13. A vertebral body contact element in combination with an orthopedic device, for securing the orthopedic device between vertebral body endplates of a spine, the vertebral body contact element extending from a surface of the orthopedic device in a shape that permits insertion of the orthopedic device from any insertion angle perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the spine between the vertebral endplates.

14. The combination of claim 13, wherein the vertebral body contact element comprises a flexible element secured at least at a perimetrical region of the vertebral body contact element to the orthopedic device.

15. The combination of claim 13, wherein the vertebral body contact element is

securable to the orthopedic device by being buried at its perimetrical region within a coating applied to the orthopedic device.

16. The combination of claim 13, wherein the vertebral body contact element is deformably reshapable under anatomical loads such that the vertebral body contact element is conformably deflectable against one of the vertebral body endplates to securably engage the vertebral body endplate.

17. The combination of claim 13, wherein the vertebral body contact element comprises a wire mesh having a resting shape of a dome convexly extending from the orthopedic device.

18. The combination of claim 13, wherein the vertebral body contact element comprises a dome that has a convexity depth approximating a concavity depth of a concave surface of a vertebral body endplate.

19. The combination of claim 13, wherein the vertebral body contact element comprises a dome that has a footprint approximating a footprint of a concave surface of a vertebral body endplate.

20. The combination of claim 13, wherein the vertebral body contact element is porous.